

FAQs

California Lottery Commission Approves Change to SuperLotto

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Key Points

- The Commission directed staff to review the best practices of other state lotteries to determine how to address declining revenues of SuperLotto.
- The new version of SuperLotto is designed to respond to requests from players and retailers.
- The new version of SuperLotto will generate more revenue for California schools.
- The new version of SuperLotto lays the foundation for consistent growth.

What are the changes to SuperLotto?

This “new generation” of SuperLotto was developed in response to player preferences, consumer testing, and requests from our retail partners. The major changes to SuperLotto would include the following:

- more ways to win, an increase to 9 prize levels from the current 4;
- a higher starting jackpot of \$7 million, up from \$4 million;
- a larger second prize;
- nearly three times as many winners in an average draw (overall odds of 1 in 23 compared to the current 1 in 60);
- a prize for matching just one number (the MEGA number); and
- more Advance Play options, up to 10 weeks from the current 4.

How much more do you think this version will make for education?

If the SuperLotto game were not changed, it would continue to decline. Staff estimates that making these changes to the game would mean about \$1.8 billion more in sales in the first three years, averaging \$600 million more a year than if the game is not changed. The game change will raise education’s 34% share to an average of \$1 Billion a year, which would be \$200 million more a year than if the change were not made.

What consumer research was conducted?

The changes to SuperLotto are the result of a thorough research and development process, including a review of lotto games in other states and consumer testing among our players. The

Lottery gets feedback through our 150 sales representatives, who call on the 19,000 Lottery retailers on a regular basis. In looking for ways to improve the game, we considered what we've heard from players and retailers about the current version of SuperLotto, such as the second prize being too small. So we developed ways to improve the prizes below the jackpot and to add other player benefits.

We also know that big jackpots drive sales of a lotto game, so the game modifications will increase the likelihood of big jackpots. SuperLotto players tested concepts for changing the game, actually playing the proposed version in a test environment that simulated the real purchase experience. The revised version of the game is based on the behavior of the players in the test, as well as on feedback received from players and retailers.

What options did the staff consider before recommending a Powerball-like game?

Three concepts for changing the current game were tested by SuperLotto players. All three concepts had a greater likelihood of big jackpots and therefore had longer jackpot odds than the current version. The winning concept features nine ways to win and a bigger starting jackpot. Players pick six numbers, five from one field and one from a second field. The concept is similar to Powerball, although it wasn't identified as such in the test.

Other features that were tested, but that proved unpopular, included picking seven numbers with a bigger second prize, and paying an optional second dollar for a chance at bigger prizes at all levels.

How does the new version of the game work?

The game is played like Powerball. Players still pick six numbers: they choose five numbers from one to 47, and then choose one number (called the MEGA number) from one to 27. Players win the Jackpot by matching all five numbers and the MEGA number. There are eight other prize levels, for a total of nine ways to win (up from four in the current version). You can even win a prize by matching just one number (the MEGA number).

When will the game changes take place?

The new version of SuperLotto will be available in June.

How will the odds of winning change?

The overall odds of winning some prize go from the current 1 in 60 to 1 in 23 for the proposed new game. The odds of winning the Jackpot go from 1 in 18 million in the current version to 1 in 41 million. For comparison purposes, the jackpot odds for Powerball, which is played in 21 states, are 1 in 80 million, and the jackpot odds for the other Powerball-like lotto game played in seven states, called the Big Game, are 1 in 76 million.

Lotto Game Odds Comparison/ 1:

	Current SuperLotto	Proposed SuperLotto	Big Game	Powerball
Jackpot	18,009,460	41,416,353	76,275,360	80,089,128
5 w/out MEGA Number	66,702	1,592,937	2,179,296	1,953,393
4 + MEGA		197,221	339,002	364,041
4 w/out MEGA	1,213	7,585	9,686	8,879
3 + MEGA		4,810	7,705	8,466
3 w/out MEGA	63	185	220	206
2 + MEGA		361	538	605
1 + MEGA		74	102	118
MEGA only		49	62	74
OVERALL ODDS	60	23	31	35
	California	California	7 states	21 states

How will the prize amounts change?

In addition to more prize levels, many of the non-jackpot prizes will be larger than in the current game. This is because a larger share of prize funds will be devoted to prizes below the jackpot (37 percent vs. the current 34 percent). As a result, there will be lots more prizes in the \$10 to \$100 range. As in the current game, all prizes are pari-mutuel so prize amounts vary. The amounts listed below are statistical averages.

SuperLotto Prize Comparison

	Current SuperLotto	New SuperLotto
Jackpot	\$ Millions	\$ Millions
5 w/out MEGA Number	\$1,500	\$20,000
4 + MEGA		\$1,500
4 w/out MEGA	\$79	\$95
3 + MEGA		\$54
3 w/out MEGA	\$5	\$10
2 + MEGA		\$10
1 + MEGA		\$2
MEGA only		\$1

What states are in Powerball and the Big Game?

Powerball and the Big Game are both multi-state games, where several smaller states join together to be able to generate bigger jackpots. Because California has such a large population, it can produce very big jackpots with its own version of the game. Powerball is offered by 21 lotteries in Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island,

South Dakota, West Virginia, Wisconsin and D.C. The Big Game is offered in 7 states: Michigan, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Virginia.

Does the change affect Scratchers or other Lottery games?

No.